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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes a meeting of the EUDISED Data Network Group which focused on the changes within the Council for Cultural Cooperation (CDCC) and the Secretariat, and progress made toward achieving the aims of the 3-year plan for the online database EUDISED (European Documentation and Information System for Education). Briefly noted are progress reports from Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and Yugoslavia. Strategies for expanding the database are also discussed, including the methods and sources of data collection in Austria, France, and the United Kingdom, and the criteria used for selecting documents for inclusion in the database. Also noted are discussions on publicity for the database, technical aspects of the database, and the publication of a new thesaurus, as recommended by the Thesaurus Management Group. A list of conference participants and their addresses is appended, as well as the agenda, a chart of EUDISED input figures, a report by the German National Agency on Progress, a Dutch Progress Report, and the Swiss Delegation's Statement. (DB)

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

EUDISED DATA NETWORK GROUP MEETING

14-15 November 1990

REPORT

Abstract

After a report on the changes within the CDCC and Secretariat, members of the Group reported on progress towards achieving the aims of the Three-Year Plan for EUDISED. The Group agreed to accept shorter abstracts and doctoral dissertations for inclusion in the database. A review of selection criteria was, therefore, thought to be necessary. Reports were received from Austria, France and the United Kingdom on methods of data collection, and the compilation of a EUDISED manual was proposed.

IR053616

EUDISED descriptors

data bank; educational information; EUDISED; planning; progress report; Council of Europe

EUDISED
European Documentation and Information System for Education

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A list of participants is attached (Appendix I).

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was opened by Dr. Seamus HEGARTY (Chairman, UK). He welcomed the participants, particularly those attending for the first time. He thanked Mr. Wilson BARRETT, who had been transferred elsewhere and welcomed Ms Anne COSGROVE as his successor.

The Draft Agenda (see Appendix II), was approved with the addition of reports from PPL Ltd and SVO, which were inserted after item 5.

2. REPORT OF THE LAST MEETING

The report of the last meeting was approved (DECS/Doc (89) 20) and it was noted that the Secretary General had replied to Elfriede Tajalli's letter (item 3). With regard to item 4, it was noted that the contract for PPL to effect the transfer of the EUDISED data from the ICL computer to the VAX system had now been approved and PPL were proceeding with the work.

3. NEW CDCC AND SECRETARIAT STRUCTURES

Mr. M. STOBART, Deputy Director of Education, Culture and Sport, explained the new structure of the Council for Cultural Co-operation and of the Secretariat. He highlighted a number of political developments, in particular growing East-West co-operation:

- Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia have all signed the Cultural Convention and applied for membership of the Council of Europe - Hungary, in fact, became a full member on 6 November 1990.

- The Soviet Union has been invited by the Committee of Ministers to sign the Cultural Convention and is likely to be a full member of the CDCC from April 1991. Interest in EUDISED has already been expressed.

- Bulgaria is likely to join the CDCC within the next few months.

- Political co-operation with Romania has been frozen for the present, but co-operation at a technical level may be taken up again.

- At the Sixth Conference of Directors of Educational Research Institutes held in Bled in October, all European countries were present including Albania. Central and Eastern European countries are also represented in the Parliamentary Assembly and there have been visits by many of their leading politicians.

- The Demosthenes Project is an attempt to help Central and Eastern European countries by facilitating exchanges with Western Europe.

The Council for Cultural Co-operation now has four committees:

- Education Committee
- Standing Conference on University Problems (CC-PU)
- Committee on Culture
- Committee on Cultural Heritage, Sites and Monuments.

The Directorate of Education, Culture and Sport is made up as follows:

- Central Division (CDCC Secretariat)
- Division for Scientific Co-operation
- Sports Division
- Education Department

  . Secretariat of the Conference of European Ministers of Education and the Education Committee
  . Section for School and Out-of-School Education
  . Section for Higher Education
  . Section for Modern Languages
  . Section for EUDISED and Educational Research

- Cultural Department

  . Secretariat of the Conference of Ministers of Culture and the Conference of Ministers responsible for Cultural Heritage; Secretariat of the Cultural Committee and the Cultural Heritage Committee
  . Division for Cultural Policy and Action
  . Division for Cultural Heritage
  . European Fund for Film and AV-Coproduction (EURIMAGES)
  . European Foundation "PRO VENETIA VIVA" (training craftsmen to restore historic buildings).

Mr. **STOBART** gave details of the main items in the education programme:

- European dimension of secondary education - preparing young people for life in a multicultural, multilingual society;

- Modern languages for European Citizenship, i.e. modern languages in primary, technical and adult education;

- Teacher Bursary Scheme;

- Annual European Schools' Day competition;

- Adult education and social change;

- University co-operation, especially transfrontier co-operation and equivalence of diplomas;

- Educational Research and EUDISED to service other activities.

He suggested that EUDISED was not yet well-known and said that the Education Committee were to discuss EUDISED in Autumn 1991. A newsletter is to be produced in order to give a better picture of what is going on in the Education Department. Agreements have been made with publishers in the UK (Cassell) and France (Nathan) who will publish CDCC materials in future.

4. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE 1989 MEETING

Ms Anne **COSGROVE** reported, on behalf of the Secretariat, on developments since the 1989 meeting of the Group.

- The transfer of the United Kingdom Register of Educational Research projects to EUDISED should be completed by early 1991, adding almost 2,000 entries to the database.

- Revised input figures to November 1990 (see Appendix III) showed a total of 920 entries and gave a more promising picture than those communicated to the national agencies in August.

- The contract for the transfer of the database from PPL's ICL computer to the VAX system had been signed, as had the contract with SVO for the editing of issues 41-44. The contract with PPL for the next four issues was still pending.

The Chair noted with dismay that this contract had not yet been settled and hoped that the Tenders Board would approve it without delay.

5. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE AIMS OF THE THREE-YEAR PLAN

5.1 Participants reported on progress in their countries towards achieving the goals of the Three-Year Plan (see DECS/Doc (90) 5).

AUSTRIA

Ms E. **TAJALLI** informed the Group that a questionnaire was sent out twice a year to research institutions in Austria and this had enabled the Austrian national agency to provide 102 entries for EUDISED, though their estimate had been 70-80.

BELGIUM

Ms G. **GOSSELIN** said that difficulties in collecting information meant that the French-speaking community had not been able to contribute any entries this year. Mr. **BOOMGAERT** reported that the Flemish-speaking community had contributed 33 entries so far this year and hoped to send a further 10 before the end of December. For next year, the French community hoped to contribute approximately 20 entries, while the Flemish community hoped to send 40.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Ms A. **CERMAKOVA** reported that letters giving details of EUDISED and translations of the worksheet had been sent to all institutions of higher education in Czechoslovakia. An article about EUDISED had also been published. Eight contributions had been sent for EUDISED this year; it was hoped to send eight more before the end of January 1991 and 30 next year.

DENMARK

Mr. M. **LARSEN** said that in Denmark information was not collected directly for EUDISED; data was usually downloaded from a national database. This year it had not been possible to send in any contributions because no one had collected educational data. However, some Danish contributions will be sent to EUDISED as soon as the educational data has been updated in a few months' time.

FINLAND

In Finland, entries were selected from a national directory produced every two years. Ms P. **TYNJÄLÄ** said that the figures listed were for 1989. In 1991 she hoped to send 50-60 entries and would contact PPL with a view to sending data in machine-readable form.

FRANCE

Mr. P. **CHAMPY** was able to report that 202 French entries had been sent on magnetic tape this year and that a further 120 entries could be expected early in 1991. At the end of 1991 a further tape would be sent with about 200 contributions. The national database would be available on the university host from Autumn 1991.

GERMANY

Ms D. **LEWERENZ** described how German entries were selected from the FORIS database and said that a tape containing 179 entries would be sent to PPL before the end of November 1990 (see Appendix IV for full report). She said that if EUDISED could accept shorter abstracts then many more German entries could be provided.

GREECE

Mr. S. **DIAMESSIS** said that he expected Greece to be able to achieve its target of 50 entries by the end of the year. He too, could provide more contributions if shorter abstracts were acceptable.

HUNGARY

Ms S. **KOVACS** described the efforts made by the Hungarian national agency to publicise EUDISED. Information on eight research projects had so far been sent in; a further 15 would be sent in during 1991.

IRELAND

Dr. T. **KELLAGHAN** said that owing to cuts in funding, fewer research projects were being undertaken in Ireland. Nevertheless, he hoped to be able to send 15 reports very soon.

ITALY

In Italy it had been difficult to attain the estimated input of 80 entries entries for 1990 as considerable efforts were required to collect the data and these efforts were not very cost-effective. Ms F. **IMBERCIADORI** said that the national agency was exploring the possibility of making it compulsory for government funded research projects to provide information for inclusion in EUDISED.

LUXEMBOURG

Mr. F. **HIERZIG** said that two more entries from Luxembourg would be sent in before the end of the year but that there was little educational research in Luxembourg which was of international interest. However, two new research centres were being set up which would probably be able to contribute data.

NETHERLANDS

Mrs. M. **GOEMANS** said that owing to a number of problems with the new computer system in the Netherlands national agency, it had been impossible to fulfil the estimates for 1990, though it was hoped to contribute 30-50 entries in the coming year. An article on EUDISED was recently published in a national journal of documentation (see full report in Appendix V).

NORWAY

Mr. F. A. **ØDEGAARD** said that Norway had hoped to contribute 30-40 entries this year, but so far only 22 had been sent in, though there might be more before the end of the year. Next year the Norwegian agency hoped to send in 30-40 entries.

PORTUGAL

Mrs. G. **LOPES DA SILVA** was able to report that Portugal had met their goal for this year. In 1991 the national agency intended to contribute 10-15 entries.

SPAIN

Ms A. **BLANCO** said Spain had been unable to fulfil the estimate of 40 entries; 10 had been sent so far this year and it was hoped a further 10 would be sent before the end of the year. It was likely that someone else would be working on EUDISED in the future.

SWEDEN

Mr. T. **LIDMAN** reported that in Sweden there had been many changes in the educational system during 1990. The National Board of Education was to be split; some of its responsibilities would be transferred to the municipalities while the remaining parts of the Board would have an evaluating role. It seemed likely that the Board would fund fewer educational research projects and it was hoped that the research councils would step in. He still hoped to send 15-20 EUDISED entries before the end of 1990. A national conference had been organised recently in Sweden in order to try and increase interest in EUDISED.

SWITZERLAND

The Swiss contributions to EUDISED for 1989 and 1990 had met the proposed targets. Mr. A. **GRETLER** said he had been alarmed in August by the input figures for EUDISED, but that the figures to November 1990 gave a more optimistic picture.

TURKEY

Ms A. **YILDIZELI** said that the Turkish Research Council had had problems in obtaining information for EUDISED so it had been decided that TURDOC would collect the information in future. Thirty-three entries had been prepared but had not been sent for editing as the publication of the third edition of the Thesaurus had been expected before the end of 1990. However, as it will not now be published until 1991, the 33 entries would be sent in with the old descriptors.

UNITED KINGDOM

Dr. S. **HEGARTY** was able to report that the United Kingdom Register of Educational Research was published last December. The information was collected in the first instance for national purposes and the annual input was approximately 700 entries per year. By April there should be 2000-2100 entries on the database and a transfer programme was to be written in order to transfer these entries to EUDISED; the NFER is awaiting the formal confirmation to begin the work. Some further delays might be caused by changes in the NFER's own computer system. The new UK register would be published in December 1991.

YUGOSLAVIA

Ms M. **PANTOVIC** said that a national meeting was held recently in Yugoslavia to reorganise data collection procedures and to try and achieve 20 entries by the end of the year. In future regional meetings would be held for the exchange of information and collection of data. A national bulletin was to be published to try and involve more authorities in the EUDISED project.

The Chairman summarised this item by saying that there was reason for guarded optimism at this midway point of the Three-Year Plan and though some countries were on target with regard to their contributions, there were still difficulties to be overcome.

5.2 Comments on a German proposal to accept shorter abstracts

Mrs. D. **LEWERENZ** said that there was much data which would be of interest for EUDISED, but that a comprehensive explanation of the research project was not always provided.

Mr. P. **CHAMPY** commented that in his experience the longer the abstract, the less likely it was to be a true description of the project. Very often researchers modified their original intentions in the course of their work, so a very precise abstract was more likely to be unreliable. A shorter abstract which gave a description of ongoing research could be replaced by a much more detailed one when the research was completed.

Mr. G. **HOWARD** (PPL) said that at present PPL's computer system would not accept an entry without an abstract but that from issue 41 of the Bulletin onwards this would not be a problem.

After some discussion, it was therefore decided that the German proposal to allow shorter abstracts should be accepted and that the Secretariat should circulate revised instructions on selection criteria (cf. DECS/Doc (83) 30).

5.3 User manual

It was suggested that a general handbook of educational databases would be a useful publication, but it was thought best to begin with a manual for EUDISED users which might eventually be extended to cover other databases - for example CEDEFOP - at a later date. Mrs. G. **LOPES DA SILVA** offered to help SVO produce such a manual.

Mrs. F. **NACEREDDINE** of UNESCO/IBE drew the attention of participants to the third issue of "Current bibliographical sources in education", which had been published as No. 251 of the "Bulletin of the International Bureau of Education" (April-June 1989).

5.4 Contracts with national agencies

With regard to Mr. A. **GRETLER**'s proposal (see Appendix VI) regarding contracts between the Secretariat and national agencies, Mr. M. **VORBECK** suggested that such contracts could be concluded on an informal, voluntary basis, with no fees involved, the wording to be suggested by agencies who felt they would be useful. They would be signed by Mr. M. **VORBECK** and the heads of the agencies concerned.

5.5 Collaboration with the European Community and CEDEFOP

It was decided that the Secretariat should pursue this matter.

5.6 Study visits

It was suggested that study visits to a number of well-established EUDISED agencies by representatives from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia (and perhaps also Bulgaria and the Soviet Union) be organised under the Demosthenes scheme. It was decided that a formal recommendation be made on behalf of the Data Network Group.

5.7 Conclusions

a. Shorter abstracts would be acceptable in future, in cases where full abstracts are not available.

b. A user manual is to be produced by the agency in the Netherlands in co-operation with the Portuguese agency.

c. It was recommended that study visits for representatives from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia to certain well organised EUDISED agencies should take place.

d. Contracts could be signed between the Secretariat and those agencies which would find this procedure helpful.

e. Collaboration with CEDEFOP and the European Community should be pursued by the Secretariat.

f. The European Space Agency should be asked about the possibility of making free time available to prospective customers.

6. REPORTS FROM PPL LTD AND SVO

6.1 Peter Peregrinus Ltd

Mr. G. HOWARD of PPL referred to the "Preliminary Design Document" which had been given to the Secretariat. This set out plans for the transfer of EUDISED from the ICL computer to the VAX system. He also asked whether it was likely that descriptors would be included in the database in other languages. If so, provision should be made for this because at present there was space for only one more language. He asked whether Field 18 (national descriptors) should remain, as it appeared on the worksheet but not in the Bulletin or the database. In future after every four issues of the Bulletin the EUDISED data would be archived on optical disk. This would mean it could not be updated. He also referred to the fact that certain characters - such as the German ß, ä, ö, ü, the Danish ø and æ - are included in the tape sent to the ESA, but blanks appear on the database where they should be, making it much more difficult to understand the text. He also asked for suggestions for the presentation of the country index to the Bulletin.

- It was decided that more space should be allocated for descriptors in other languages as four new thesaurus versions are planned (Finnish, Russian, Serbo-Croat and Turkish).

- Mr. G. **HOWARD** explained that it would be possible to update the optical disk by downloading the data, but participants thought it was more important for ESA to be able to replace an entry with a more up-to-date abstract. It was felt a clearer understanding of ESA's updating procedures was necessary.

- Clarification should also be sought from ESA with regard to the question of those characters which currently appear on the database as blanks.

- It was agreed that the Secretariat should ask national agencies for suggestions regarding the country index and should pass on the recommendations to PPL.

6.2 Report from SVO

Mr. Kees **BROEKHOF** of SVO reported an improvement in the quality of input and said that contact with individual agencies had been very useful in solving problems. He said that entries for issue 41 should be ready by the end of the year.

The Chair thanked SVO for the generous terms under which they carry out editorial work for EUDISED.

7. EXPANDING THE DATABASE

7.1 Methods of data collection

Reports were received from Austria, France and the United Kingdom regarding their methods of data collection.

7.1.1 AUSTRIA

The Austrian EUDISED unit is a section of the Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Sport. It has participated in EUDISED activities since the beginning (1979).

Over the past ten years the Austrian EUDISED unit has conducted a permanent investigation in the field of completed or ongoing educational research. We send out our questionnaires (Meldebogen) twice a year to institutions and researchers whom we presume to be active in the field. Researchers or institutions are free to report their data at some time or other and they are told so in the covering letter. Theoretically they can keep the Meldebogen (= questionnaire for first report) until the moment they start a new project. Practice has shown that it is necessary to remind the researchers and institutions at regular intervals of this possibility (we do it twice a year in spring and in autumn). Ninety per cent of the reported data reaches us within one to two months after the start of our investigation. Afterwards people seem to forget about it.

Our last investigation was started in September 1990. Questionnaires were sent to 850 addressees (individual researchers, institutions). Of course we use the addresses of our documentation "Bildungsforschung in Österreich" which is published every two years.

As the data is computerized we can make a printout of addresses on labels each time we need it for a new investigation. But we do not rely only on those researchers or institutions that have once reported

educational data. We strive to complete our stock of addresses by contacting all institutes for educational sciences, psychology, etc. at each Austrian university; we send questionnaires to each teacher training college and to the private institutions we come across in one way or the other.

Fortunately we have also the possibility to make use of a fact documentation which is published by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Sciences and Research.

In this documentation the research projects which are being financed by public funding are listed and, therefore, it can be used as a source for researchers active in the field of research.

This is only one example of the attempt to exploit every possible source for finding out which people are active in the field of educational research. This seems to be crucial. Only if we succeed in developing a large stock of addresses of potential researchers can we rely on being able to receive reports on a number of research projects which do not represent only a random selection of what is going on in this field nationally. We must try to build a reliable basis for professional work.

At the very beginning of the investigation process even the telephone directory may be of help for finding out institutions active in the field or in neighbouring fields.

Now a few words about our technique to receive information on projects which were reported as being ongoing. Every second year we send questionnaires (Korrekturbogen) to the researchers who reported on ongoing research projects for the last published documentation. We ask them to report to us any corrections or supplementary information, like, for instance, findings in the course of research, publications, or whether the project was terminated in the meantime or not, etc.

The corrected or completed project respectively gets included in the subsequent publication of the documentation "Bildungsforschung in Österreich".

Of the 223 research projects of the last issue of our documentation, 135 were ongoing. Therefore, last September we sent questionnaires (Korrekturbogen) to the project leaders responsible for these 135 research projects. We put a deadline for the return of this kind of questionnaire. Afterwards one or two written reminders have proved to be necessary to receive the larger part of the questionnaires reporting the amendments.

A full-time member of staff spends 50% of their time on data collection and 30% on other EUDISED-related work.

7.1.2 **FRANCE**

Data is collected by two institutes, the Institut de l'Information Scientifique (INIST), which depends on the CNRS, and the Institut National de Recherche Pédagogique (INRP), which depends on the Ministry of Education.

Information is collected from individual research teams - 700 have been contacted since involvement with EUDISED began. The information collected has been used to set up a computerised mailing list.

Information is also collected by scanning the literature for details of research in progress and sending questionnaires to the teams involved. All the information gathered is sent back to the research teams for checking before being entered on the computer.

The worksheets used are simpler than the EUDISED worksheets and the information needed for EUDISED is completed by staff at the two institutes.

There are a number of by-products of the database: a magnetic tape which is sent to PPL on an annual basis; a simplified videotex version of the data available via MINITEL; and a list of research in progress, research units and researchers.

The national agency has 1.5 posts for collecting information and 0.5 post for keyboarding. Technical support is provided by the computer centre.

7.1.3 **UNITED KINGDOM**

United Kingdom data is collected by the NFER which is not part of the Ministry of Education and which receives no external funding.

In September and October questionnaires are sent to all the institutions on the NFER mailing list (including polytechnics, universities and research institutes), and also to those bodies which fund research projects. Published registers and other works in fields related to education such as psychology and sociology are also scanned for details of research which might be of interest. The questionnaires must be returned by the end of December and usually require considerable editing. If further information is needed it is requested from the person who filled in the questionnaire. Keywords are added at the editing stage and the information is entered on a micro-computer.

A hard copy is produced every two years as the "Register of Educational Research in the United Kingdom". This is also available on diskette though demand for diskettes has not been great. Until now a selection of the entries has been provided for inclusion in EUDISED. There is 0.5 of an information specialist post and 0.75 of a clerical assistant post working on data collection and handling.

The Chairman concluded that the three examples showed that it was important that data should be collected for a clearly defined national purpose; that the effort needed to be systematic - e.g. every 1-2 years; and that resources had to be committed to this work.

7.2 Tapping sources outside the national agencies

Mr. M. **VORBECK** suggested that educational research institutions, modern language research and information centres and textbook research centres are not always well-informed about EUDISED. He proposed that lists of participants at all future educational research workshops organised by the Council of Europe should be sent to national agencies for checking against their mailing lists.

8. CONTENT OF THE DATABASE

8.1 Selection criteria

The Chairman introduced this item, noting that inclusion criteria in the UK seem to differ slightly from those used in some countries and that there was a need for a common understanding of the EUDISED selection criteria. National agencies were free to use any appropriate selection criteria for their own databases. In principle, the information on the worksheet should be complete but participants were reminded that shorter abstracts would be acceptable in future. Doctoral theses were not normally included in EUDISED. However, in Britain work at PhD level was of a substantial nature and therefore worth including in registers of educational research. Seamus **HEGARTY** also referred to "borderline cases" that is, research in linguistics, sociology, medicine, psychology or cybernetics which might be relevant to education. Such research reports were included in the UK Register.

In the discussion which followed, it was suggested that "relevance to education" was an unclear criterion; "in the context of the education and training process" was perhaps more explicit. It was also felt important to stress that though co-operation with CEDEFOP and EURYDICE was desirable, it was important to remember the specificity of the EUDISED database which did not duplicate work done by CEDEFOP or EURYDICE. EUDISED might eventually form the nucleus of a much more comprehensive European database. It was also noted that adding CDCC publications would change the nature of the database.

It was decided that:

- an updated version of the selection criteria (DECS/Doc (83) 30) should be circulated for comment and be a matter for decision at the 1991 meeting.

- doctoral theses and research related to education in other fields such a medicine and psychology, should be acceptable.

8.2 Database and Bulletin entries

A further point was raised with regard to selection criteria: in the future there would be substantially more entries for EUDISED. If each national agency were to decide whether entries were for the database only or for the Bulletin and database, it would be likely that there would be far too many entries for the database. Mr. K. **BROEKHOF** suggested three ways of dealing with this problem:

a. Entries to the database would be on a "first come, first served" basis, i.e. the first 250 entries received would go into the database only, but this could result in some issues of the Bulletin containing material from one country only.

b. The project date/length of the abstract could be used as criteria for inclusion in the Bulletin.

c. Space could be allocated in the Bulletin based on each country's average annual input in order to maintain a balance between countries.

None of these solutions alone appeared to be satisfactory, so the Group agreed that a combination of all three methods be used for a trial period of one year; national agencies were free to give an indication to SVO of which entries they would wish to be included in both database and Bulletin and the situation would be reviewed at next year's meeting, Kees **BROEKHOF** being invited to present a detailed report. It was also suggested that with shorter abstracts the Bulletin might contain more than 1000 entries per year but confirmation that this was possible would need to be sought from Saur Verlag.

8.3 Inclusion of CDCC publications

An undertaking had already been given to include CDCC publications in the database and Mr. M. **VORBECK** (Secretariat) said that there were already at least 500 titles which could be included. Mr. F. **HIERZIG** (Luxembourg) suggested that rather than try to include all past publications it would be easier to begin with publications concerned with projects currently being undertaken, such as the European dimension of education, and all future publications.

9. PUBLICITY

It was clear that there was a need for a basic information leaflet on EUDISED. The Secretariat intended to prepare a leaflet which could be distributed at meetings or through the national agencies. It was suggested that it should include details of the countries involved, the details of the R & D Bulletin and the way EUDISED is organised. The user manual to be prepared by the agencies in the Netherlands and Portugal would be complementary. Mr. M. **LARSEN** suggested that other educational information systems should include information about EUDISED and vice versa. This would enable database users to see which other sources might be of interest. The user manual could also contain an appendix of information on additional sources. Mrs. F. **NACEREDDINE** noted that there was an IBE publication which listed educational databases and she would be prepared to send details to participants. She said that information on EUDISED could also be included in two IBE newsletters; one concerning educational information and innovation, which had a circulation of 11000 addresses, and the INED Bulletin, which is sent to educational documentation centres and libraries.

10. TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE DATABASE

No information had been received from ESA concerning the points mentioned in the Agenda, it was therefore agreed that Ms A. **COSGROVE**, who would be attending the Database Producers' meeting at the ESA in Frascati on behalf of the Secretariat, would seek information from ESA on the following points:

- dealing with the characters which seem to pose problems (see 7. above);
- the ESA's pricing for information policy;
- the possibility of joint access to ERIC and EUDISED;
- the procedure for updating entries in the database;

- the possibility of using a format for displaying entries which would print the descriptors in one language only, rather than in all nine, as this was time-consuming and often unnecessary.

11. REPORT OF THESAURUS MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING

Mr. M. **VORBECK** reported that the publication of the new edition of the Thesaurus would be in June 1991. Updating would remain a continuous process; a restricted group (one per language area) and a group to examine overall Thesaurus structure and concepts would meet in 1991; lists of descriptors (specialised vocabularies) in modern languages and special education would be finalised; there were four language versions in preparation - Finnish, Russian, Turkish and Serbo-Croat.

12. BUDGET AND PROGRAMME FOR 1991

The Group took note of CDCC (90) 8, pages 61-62 - the Budget and Programme for 1991.

13. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday and Thursday, 2 and 3 October 1991.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 CIDREE

The Chairman brought the proposed Consortium of Institutes for Development and Research in Education in Europe (CIDREE) to the attention of the Group. Its purpose was to provide a forum for the exchange of information and expertise and to engage in joint activities. It was to be formally instituted in The Hague on the 12 December 1990. Organisations involved include: SVO and SLO in the Netherlands, INRP and CIEP in France, the National Curriculum Council and NFER in England, SCRE and the SCCC in Scotland, the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science, LSW in Soest, Germany, National Board of Education in Sweden, National Board of General Education in Finland and the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium.

14.1 Invitation procedure

Mr. M. **VORBECK** suggested to the Group that invitations to next year's meeting might be sent to each country's delegate to the newly formed Education Committee. The person who represented the country this year would be named and sent a copy of the invitation. If no reply was received within a given time, it would be assumed that the same person would come to next year's meeting and all documentation would be sent to them.

APPENDIX I/ANNEXE I

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APPENDIX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Report (Notes) of the last meeting

3. New structures of the Council for Cultural Co-operation and the Secretariat: to receive oral report on the changes introduced in 1990 (M. Vorbeck)

4. Developments since the 1989 meeting: to receive report from the Secretariat (A. Cosgrove)

5. The Three-Year Plan and national agencies: to receive reports from each national agency on progress towards achieving the goals of the Three-Year Plan

6. Expanding the database: to explore possible action at national and international levels

   a. National level - reports from several countries on data collection procedures (Austria, France, UK)

   b. Tapping sources outside the national agencies (M. Vorbeck)

7. Content of the database: to consider inclusion - and deletion - criteria (introduced by the Chairman)

8. Publicity: to collect ideas on publicising the database

9. Technical aspects of the database:

   a. to clarify how online access is gained from different countries (A. Cosgrove/ESA)

   b. to discuss difficulties associated with different character sets (S. Hegarty)

   c. to receive a report on ESA's new pricing structure (ESA)

   d. to explore the possibility of joint access to EUDISED and ERIC (A. Cosgrove/ESA)

10. Thesaurus Group meeting: to receive report (F. Imberciadori)

11. To receive 1991 Budget and Programme

12. Date of the next meeting

13. Any other business

APPENDIX III

EUDISED INPUT FIGURES (as at November 1990) (given by SVO)

	Estimated input for 1989	Real input 1989	Real input 1990
Austria	70-80	69	102
Belgium	40+?	14	33
Cyprus	20	11	29
Czechoslovakia	40	12	17
Denmark	?	16	-
Finland	40	15	31
France	200	30	202
FR Germany	200	157	168
Greece	30	7	24
Hungary	10	3	8
Iceland		2	-
Ireland	10	-	-
Italy	100	56	41
Luxembourg	5	-	3
Netherlands	200-300	155	81
Norway	20?	10	15
Portugal	10-15	9	12
Spain	40	18	10
Sweden	50-70	22	9
Switzerland	70-80	71	77
Turkey	25-50	15	-
United Kingdom	1000	21	37
Yugoslavia	20-25	4	3
Approximately	2300	717	902

APPENDIX IV

REPORT BY THE GERMAN NATIONAL AGENCY ON PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE THREE-YEAR PLAN

by Mrs. D. LEWERENZ

Since 1985 Germany has submitted machine-readable data to EUDISED. The procedure: The German national agency selects suitable items (which meet the requirements of the EUDISED profile) from the annual update of the German database FORIS. This database is run by the Informationszentrum Sozialwissenschaften, Bonn (IZ). FORIS contains data on ongoing and completed research projects in the field of social sciences. Every year between 4,000 and 4,500 new items are added to FORIS as the result of an annual survey. Around 10 per cent out of this number can be considered to belong to the field of education. From these the German national agency selects new entries (no updates) on ongoing research for EUDISED descriptors and translations of German research titles into English which are sent annually to PPL.

In February 1990 the German national agency forwarded a magnetic tape with 167 research items from the most recent annual survey to PPL to be included in the EUDISED Bulletins and database. The national agency had hoped to be able to send more than these 167 research items in order to meet the estimated input figure for 1990 of 200 items. The next tape which the German national agency will be able to send to PPL at the end of November 1990 will again stay below the estimated input figure of 200, though the number of items has risen to 179. The endeavours to raise the input numbers were assisted by a technical expert from our national database FORIS. As a result we now realise that the number of German contributions to EUDISED can only be increased if EUDISED would accept less extensive summaries/abstracts within the research items. German researchers frequently contribute data with only short indications as to methods, theories and findings of their work. Within the German database FORIS short abstracts are accepted in order to ensure future co-operation of the researchers. It is, therefore, proposed to discuss within the EUDISED data network group how to handle items with very short abstracts.

APPENDIX V

DUTCH PROGRESS REPORT AND PROPOSALS

by **Mrs. Monique GOEMANS**, SVO

... As regards SVO's input for this year, we have again not been able to live up to our promise of an annual contribution of 250 entries. The reason for this is, firstly, that we have had a new computer system installed at the office, which meant that many activities were slowed down, and, secondly, that the Almanac of Educational Research, which was scheduled to appear early this year and which was to provide a host of hitherto inaccessible material, is still not ready for publication. We can safely assume, however, that the Almanac will be ready some time next year and this will enable us to increase our EUDISED input substantially.

To promote EUDISED in the Netherlands, we have published an article about EUDISED in "OPEN" - a national journal in the field of documentation - early this year. Several people have approached SVO for further information and with any luck they have become regular users of the database or subscribers to the R & D Bulletin.

For a rosier future for EUDISED I would like to put forward the following proposals:

- to ask ESA to increase promotion on their part, for instance, by making "free time" available to give potential clients the opportunity to get to know EUDISED;

- to construct, at short notice, a EUDISED user's manual; as this will be a difficult, time-consuming job, the Council of Europe should make funds available for the development and publication of such a manual; the manual that was used at the EUDISED workshop in The Hague could serve as a basis for a definitive manual; SVO is prepared to collaborate in such a project;

- to examine possibilities for co-operation with CEDEFOP in respect of: (1) input of educational research projects in the area of vocational education, and (2) offering database users the possibility to conduct a combined search on both databases at the same time;

- to include CDCC publications in the database;

- to investigate possibilities to make EUDISED, together with other European databases in the field of education (CEDEFOP, EURYDICE), available on CD-ROM.

APPENDIX VI

THE SWISS DELEGATION'S STATEMENT AND PROPOSAL

by Mr. A. GRETLER

1. On 1 August 1990, the Institute for Educational Research in the Netherlands (SVO) informed the Council of Europe of the situation concerning the fulfilment of the Three-Year Plan with regard to EUDISED entries. This information was then communicated to the EUDISED national agencies.

The figures reported were very worrying since the estimated number of entries for 1989 was approximately 2300, the actual number of entries between November 1988 and November 1989 was 71, and between December 1989 and July 1990, 550. In other words, the real number of entries in this 20 month period only represents half of the estimate for 12 months. This means that the average number of entries per month is 63, whereas the number envisaged was approximately 200 (191). For the period under consideration the Three-Year Plan has only been 33% fulfilled. This is totally insufficient and extremely alarming.

2. If the EUDISED project is to maintain its direction and "raison d'être" it is vital that, first of all, the Three-Year Plan should be fulfilled. It is not necessary to repeat all the reasons and arguments in support of EUDISED set out, for example, in the document CDCC (88) 42 "Memorandum to the CDCC".

3. With a view to fulfilling the Three-Year Plan, the Swiss delegation proposes that the following steps be taken:

3.1 The EUDISED unit at the Council of Europe should conclude contracts with all EUDISED national agencies.

By these contracts, the national agencies would formally undertake to provide an average annual number of entries to the EUDISED database. This number would be negotiated between the two parties and should be as close as possible to the total number of educational research projects carried out in the country in question.

Any cases where there are serious obstacles to the adoption of such a contract would be dealt with by the EUDISED Data Network Group.

3.2 The Council of Europe should undertake those measures it judges appropriate to interest the European Community and notably its EURYDICE unit, in the EUDISED database. Profoundly convinced of the potential utility of the EUDISED database for the European Community, the EUDISED national agencies should support the Council of Europe individually and as a body in these endeavours.

4. The 1991 EUDISED Data Network Group meeting will assess the results of these different measures.